

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0268

JOHANNESBURG FOR MINERALS ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SF

SUBJ: KWAZULU COAL DISCOVERY CLAIMED RICHEST IN AFRICA

1. NEWSPAPER REPORTS TODAY CLAIM THAT COALFIELD DISCOVERED NEAR NONGOMA IN KWAZULU, 150 MILES NORTH OF DURBAN, HAS DEPOSITS OF HIGH GRADE ANTHRACITE GREATER THAN TOTAL RESERVES IN REST OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. UBOMBO MINES (PTY) LTD., WHICH HOLD CONCESSIONS OVER 30,000 ACRES IN DISTRICT, CLAIMS THAT GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS REVEAL RESERVES OF 100 MILLION, AND POSSIBLY 208 MILLION, TONS OF ANTHRACITE COAL.

3. OPTIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY SOUTH CAPE CORPORATION, WHOSE CHAIRMAN IS B.J. SCHOEMAN, FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, EXPIRED JULY 31, AND CORPORATIM APPARENTLY UNABLE TO EXERCISE OPTIONS DUE TO INABILITY TO RAISE NECESSARY CAPITAL.

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4. UBOMBO MINES HAS NOW DECIDED TO OFFER MINING CONCESSION

TO OTHER SOUTH AFRICAN AND OVERSEAS GROUPS INTERESTED
IN EXPLOITING COALFIELD, AND EXPECTS TO SELL RIGHTS FOR
R5 MILLION (\$7 MILLION).

5. NONGOMA AREA FAIRLY WELL PLACED TO BE ABLE TO SHIP COAL
THROUGH NEW PORT AT RICHARDS BHUCOAL REPORTEDLY IDEAL FOR
STEEL PRODUCTION AND ISCOR MAY BE INTERESTED IN USING COAL
FOR NEWCASTLE WORKS, LOCATED ABOUT 100 MILES FROM NONGOMA.

6. EXISTENCE OF MAJOR COAL DEPOSIT IN KWAZULU CONSIDERED
LIKELY TO BE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT TO ECONOMY OF HOMELAND AS
ROYALTIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ACCRUE TO KWAZULU, AND PROVISION
OF ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO EXPLOIT COAL WILL ALSO
ASSIST IN OTHER DIRECTIONS.
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